

I strongly encourage the Commissioners to vote AGAINST the proposed rule change which would allow greater consolidation of media ownership in local markets. The commissioner who spoke tonight (Tuesday 20-May-2003) on public radio made excellent arguments regarding the need for diverse and open media in protecting the public interest. Radio stations owned by Clear Channel, for example, serve more to mind-numb people than to promote clear public understanding of the day's news. Such stations typically do very little to give local musicians an opportunity, or to give local public events attention that might serve the public interest. Various departments of the government are giving far too many profit paths to the oligarchs, at the expense of citizens. Please, commissioners, save us from having the same seven radio stations (with local ads inserted by a computer) in every market in the country!